



Department of  
Education and Training

## ***Media Statement***

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

8 July 2009

### **Nominate now for the 2009 WA Education Awards**

The principal of Western Australia's top literacy school has urged Western Australians to nominate their public school for the 2009 WA Education Awards.

Esperance Senior High School won the prestigious WA Literacy School of the Year Award 2008 for improving literacy skills of students.

The school was commended for its specialist reading classes and specific tuition for Indigenous students.

Principal Cathy Bamblett said she was thrilled that the school won the \$15,000 prize and encouraged other schools to nominate this year.

"As the only secondary school in a 400km radius, we are the only option for most parents, so increasing parent confidence in the school is important to us," Ms Bamblett said.

"We have used a lot of the funds to improve recourses for students who are reluctant readers for example we purchased Ipods to play audio books and subsidised attendance at Shakespeare plays.

"We made literacy a whole school priority because literacy is the basis of all subject areas.

"We aim to identify students who are struggling so we can help them before they get lost."

Mrs Bamblett said just being nominated was a positive affirmation for the school.

"We wanted our teachers to be recognised for their work in this area and this is a great opportunity to show teachers how special they are."

Nominations for the 2009 WA Education Awards are now open.

The categories and prizes for 2009 are:

- Premier's Teacher of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Principal of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA School Support Staff Member of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Literacy School of the Year sponsored by Edith Cowan University – \$15 000
- WA Numeracy School of the Year sponsored by Teachers Credit Union – \$15 000
- WA Science School of the Year sponsored by ExxonMobil – \$15 000.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said the awards recognise Western Australia's best educators.

"Quality teachers, principals, support staff and schools are the basis of a great education," she said.

“The professional learning opportunities created by the awards and the cash prizes to schools benefit the whole school community and teachers are able to engage students in exciting lessons which enhance their learning.

“Give your child’s teacher, school or principal the ultimate thank you by nominating them for an award.”

Anyone interested in nominating a school or staff member for the WA Education Awards should talk with their school’s principal.

Nomination kits are available from all public schools or using [det.wa.edu.au/educationawards](http://det.wa.edu.au/educationawards).

(ENDS)

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